

war; and it has the indignity to ask our children to bear the burden alone.

For years, members of the Blue Dog Coalition have warned that we were spending money we did not have; that the administration had no economic plan; and that tax cuts were not a substitute for an economic program for our country's future; but the majority in Congress continue to reject our budget reform proposals, efforts to budget in the same way that your family and mine do, by paying as you go.

This year the Blue Dog Coalition developed a clear 12-step plan to put our fiscal house back in order by restoring discipline and accountability to the budget process. A few days ago, a proposal to include 11 of these 12 steps in the budget resolution was wholly rejected by the majority in the House Committee on Rules.

By rejecting consideration of the Blue Dog reforms, the majority turned its back on the call to return to some measure of fiscal discipline. Since no debate was permitted, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the key features of this plan with the American people.

The Blue Dog 12-point reform plan embraces the first rule of holes: when you find yourself in one, stop digging. Our plan takes the shovel away from Congress by imposing tough new rules to restrain congressional spending. The plan also stops Congress from buying on credit and restores PAYGO, strongly supported by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The Blue Dog plan also puts a lid on spending by holding down discretionary spending to the levels proposed by the President in this year's budget. It closes a giant loophole that allows almost any spending to be designated an emergency by requiring Congress to have a separate vote on items designated as such.

Every day, I hear from my constituents who ask me where are their tax dollars going. The Blue Dog plan answers this call with a number of commonsense reforms to keep the taxpayers better educated about where their hard-earned dollars go.

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The plan says that if Congress wants to increase the national debt we should do it completely out in the open with a separate vote. The plan says that if Congress wants to call for more than \$50 million in new spending, that bill gets a roll call vote. It says if Congress wants to push through earmarks for pet projects we should require clear written justification for those projects.

Madam Speaker, this year's deficit is projected to be at much as \$589 billion, not counting the Social Security surplus, almost 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. By 2009 interest payments alone on our national debt will exceed what we spend on discretionary spending on national parks, public schools, fire fighters, law enforcement and our veterans.

We owe it to the American people to stop imperiling the Nation's economic future by borrowing money to pay for irresponsible policies.

Yesterday the Judiciary Committee on which I sit spent an entire day working on the massive bankruptcy bill. During the debate revolving around issues of debt and finances, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle often talked about the importance of personal responsibility.

If your family or mine budgeted in the same way this House demonstrated today, we would all go bankrupt. Our constituents know exactly what it is like to balance a checkbook at the end of each month and at the end of the year. It is now time for the majority to exercise some of the personal responsibility they are so fond of and balance our Nation's books.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HONORING OUTSTANDING CONSTITUENTS FROM TENNESSEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, we have a wonderful gentleman who was a Tennessee resident, citizen and someone we are terribly proud of. His name is Alex Haley, and many around the world know of his writings. And one of the things that Mr. Haley would often say is "Find the good and praise it". And that is something that we have more or less adopted in Tennessee, when folks do things that should be praised. And today I want to recognize some of our outstanding citizens in our State.

One is Mr. Hubert Seaton of Henderson, Tennessee. And he was recognized during the annual Henderson, Tennessee Membership and Awards Banquet, and the Chester County Chamber of Commerce named him as their 2004 citizen of the year. What an outstanding honor for an outstanding man who was the first citizen of Chester County to be drafted during World War II.

He devoted himself to serving his country with honor and dignity and was awarded both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

In 1960 he was elected to the Chester County Quarterly Court and faithfully served his community for 42 years. While presiding as a county judge and chairman of the court he continued to demonstrate his devotion to the citizens of Chester County, a life well lived, an honor well deserved.

We also honor today Mr. Ed Rufo. He is the recipient of the Army Public Service Award, and it is the second highest distinction granted to a civilian by the Secretary of the Army.

As founder and president of Operation Eagle's Nest, Mr. Rufo has contributed enormously to providing both financial and moral aid to Fort Campbell soldiers and their families.

This started out as a fund raising endeavor to assist the families of soldiers deployed to Iraq. Operation Eagle's Nest rapidly obtained support from the Military Affairs Committees of Hopkinsville and Oak Grove, Kentucky and Clarksville, Tennessee, which is in my 7th Congressional District. To date contributions total more than \$250,000. It is clear that Eagle's Nest is having a substantial positive impact on the lives of our soldiers.

When our Nation called Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne to Operation Iraqi Freedom, they responded with enthusiasm and with dedication.

When Mr. Rufo saw an opportunity to thank the men, women and their families, he answered with Operation Eagle's Nest, and we thank him for that.

We have got a couple of educators that are doing great work. Since 1990 Dr. Ronald Griffeth has dedicated himself to the students and the faculty of Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee. He was the academy's president and headmaster. And while everyone in our community is sad to see him retire, we know that he is leaving a lasting legacy in the community. And in recognition of that legacy, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools honored him with the distinguished Sawney Webb Award.

Not only has he helped to lead and expand the academy, he has been actively involved in the community with Boys and Girls Clubs and with working with young people in so many endeavors.

Mrs. Pam Stackhouse also works with young people. She has been recognized as the Wal-Mart Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award Winner. She received a \$10,000 education grant to benefit her school, Selmer Elementary.

She has demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm for learning for her students, and for more than three decades she has devoted her energy and her talent to Selmer students. As a music teacher for the last 8 years she has given her students appreciation for all things good. The Selmer community is truly blessed to have her enriching the lives of their children.

And Madam Speaker, I rise to wind up talking about our Chester County girls basketball team. They have had a tremendous season, and Saturday night these young women won the Tennessee AA State Championship.

We know that great basketball brings small towns together across Tennessee, and in Henderson they have been coming together for years to watch the Eaglettes hit the hardwood. And while dedicated to their team, the fans have been waiting nearly 3 decades to take another shot at that title. The wait is over.

After 27 years the Eaglettes carried home the State championship trophy and had three players make the State All tournament team. One was the MVP, the other Tennessee's Miss Basketball. Congratulations to all of the team members.

Madam Speaker, we want to say congratulations to all these outstanding constituents who allow us to see their good and to praise it.

RECORD TRADE DEFICITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the United States set a new record officially, and that is something, unfortunately, which will haunt us for decades to come, a new record trade deficit of \$665.9 billion. We have two growing categories of exports as the leading industrialized nation in the world, and one is waste. We are exporting more waste paper, bottles, cans and things to the world's fastest growing industrial giant, China, which they turn into high value added goods and ship back to us.

Our second greatest export, or actually the greatest export is U.S. dollars. We are borrowing \$665.9 billion from overseas producers to bring goods into this country without adding to the economic industrial base, in fact to the detriment of the economic industrial base of the United States.

Japan today holds \$820 billion, China \$610 billion. China will soon eclipse Japan. Within 3 years, China will have a trillion dollars of IOUs from the United States Government. They will have not only a stranglehold over the production of goods, because we are buying so many things from them and so many U.S. companies have put capital into China instead of jobs here, but they will have a stranglehold over the dollar.

Let us image a confrontation over Taiwan, and the Chinese say we are not going to take you on militarily yet, it is 10 or 15 years until we have eclipsed you militarily, although we have eclipsed you industrially, but we are going to dump dollars tomorrow. We are going to take the dollar down to the value of a rupee or even less. They could threaten to dump that trillion dollars onto the world market, cause an economic catastrophe here at home

and around the world. They would not have to fire a single shot.

This administration thinks it is just peachy. They say the U.S. is growing so fast, that is why we have these huge trade deficits. Yes, we are growing so fast on borrowed money and purchasing products made overseas. That is not exactly my idea of adding to the economic industrial base might of the United States of America and putting our own people into productive work. Members wonder why wages are dropping in the U.S. and people are not doing so well, because the good jobs, the manufacturing jobs, the high-paying jobs, the jobs with benefits, are going to China and other unfair trading nations.

And this administration, and to give them some due, the last administration was afraid to take on China on their unfair trade practices. They can steal products, like they have from companies in my own district, clone them in China, including translating the U.S. patents into Chinese, and this administration and the last will not lift a finger to stop that. This administration said bring them to the WTO, rules-based trade, and then we will go after them. They have only filed one complaint against China. The billions that they are pirating from our companies, one complaint and who was it for, Pfizer, the big drug company, the only company that this administration would file a complaint at the WTO on behalf of, not the electronics company in my district, not the wood products company in my district, not other companies all across America who are being pirated by the Chinese, just Pfizer who could probably take care of themselves, but these other little guys cannot.

We have a failed trade policy in this country. We cannot continue to borrow here at home, \$1.3 million a minute with our current account deficit to run the government, and borrowing \$2 billion a day from overseas from countries that are potential future enemies, or at least competitors, like China. It is crazy. It is not sustainable.

Even the great guru, Alan Greenspan, the head political economic hack in this town, has said it is not sustainable. When will this administration wake up?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, let me talk about something good for

America. Community health centers offer primary and preventive health care services to everyone, including low-income, underinsured and uninsured families. While low-income individuals have access to Medicaid and the elderly and the disabled have access to Medicare, uninsured and underinsured families often delay seeing a doctor or turn to emergency departments where treatment is several times more expensive.

Community health centers, however, provide comprehensive and preventive care that adjusts charges for patient care according to family income. The Federal Government spends over \$23 billion a year to offset losses incurred by hospitals for patients unable to pay their bills, and the Department of Health and Human Services tell us that medical care at community health centers cost only about \$1.30 per pay per patient served. In fact, medical care at community health centers is around \$250 less than the average annual expenditure for an office-based medical provider.

In short, community health centers offer an affordable source of quality health care, but the problem is we need more of them. The President has proposed a \$304 million increase for community health center programs to create 1,200 new or expanded sites to serve an additional 6.1 million people by next year. In order to meet that goal, the centers must double their workforce by adding double the clinicians by 2006. Hiring that many doctors would be costly, but encouraging more to volunteer would help to meet this need. While many physicians are willing to volunteer their services at these centers, they often hesitate due to the high cost of medical liability insurance. As a result, there are too few volunteer physicians to meet our health care needs.

By comparison, volunteer physicians at free health clinics and paid physicians at community health centers already receive comprehensive medical liability coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act, or FTCA.

Accordingly, I am introducing the Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act of 2005 to extend the medical liability protections of FTCA to volunteer physicians at community health centers. These protections are necessary to ensure that the centers can continue to play an important role in lowering our Nation's health care costs and meeting the needs for affordable and access quality health care. The Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act of 2005 is supported by the National Association of Community Health Centers, the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association. I would encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation to ensure access to health care for those who need it most.